



Inter Department Correspondence Sheet

TO: Members of Council

FROM: Richard Allan Bull, City Clerk

COPIES TO: _____

SUBJECT: Minutes of City Council Meeting

March 9, 2021

Attached are the minutes from the City Council Meeting held on March 2, 2021.

Richard Allan Bull
City Clerk

NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

MEETING OF COUNCIL

TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2021

Mayor Alexander, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and announced This meeting of the Norfolk City Council is being held by electronic communication means pursuant to Item 4-0.01 in House Bill 30 (Chapter 1289) of the 2020 Session.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss or transact the business statutorily required or necessary to continue operations of this public body and the discharge of its lawful purposes, duties, and responsibilities.

This meeting will be conducted by the following electronic communication means: telephonically and electronically through WebEx. The public may participate by providing their comments in email to the Clerk's Office in advance of the hearing or by WebEx phone or video.

The members of the Council were present by remote/electronic WebEx: Mrs. Courtney R. Doyle, Mrs. Mamie B. Johnson, Mrs. Andria P. McClellan, Ms. Danica Royster, Mr. Tommy Smigiel, and Mr. Martin Thomas Jr. Mr. Paul R. Riddick attended telephonically, and Mayor Kenneth Cooper Alexander attended in person.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion for closed session was approved for purposes which are set out in **Clause 1** of subsection (A) of **Section 2.2-3711** of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, as amended:

(1) Discussion of a personnel matter.

Yes: Doyle, Johnson, McClellan, Riddick, Royster, Smigiel, Thomas and Alexander.

No: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Filer updated Council as follows:

Potential Municipal Opportunity

- Repurpose Nordstrom building for municipal use
- Approximately 130,000 square feet
- Estimated cost: \$14.85 million
- Onsite structured parking
- Space for 300+ city employees

- Approximately \$700,000/year in lease savings
 - Economic Development
 - Information Technology
 - Neighborhood Development
 - Utilities

Concept Exploration to Date

- Engaged city's urban design consultant – WPA
 - Explore potential to leverage existing municipal buildings(s) to house departments currently in leased space
 - Implement COVID-19 best practices
 - Conduct stakeholder interviews to develop suite plans to meet departmental needs

Preliminary Interview Takeaways

- Safe, Collaborative and Secure
- There is a great desire for departments to be closer to one another and share amenities
- This has the potential to improve workflow, break down silos and allow for better collaboration
- Public facing departments should be on the first floor
- It is a priority to maximize natural light for overall well-being

Update Since Last Conversation

- Issued an RFQ for a Design-Build
- 10 teams submitted proposals;
- Review Panel short-listed 3 teams:
 - Clancy & Theys Construction Company with PMA Architecture
 - Hourigan Construction Corporation with Tymoff-Moss Architects
 - S.B. Ballard Construction Company with RRMM Architects

Over the next several months, these three teams will respond to the RFP, which will be issued soon.

Councilman Riddick asked about minority participation and what will be required. Dr. Filer answered that this project falls under the new inclusive procurement policy adopted by Council in January.

Councilwoman Johnson asked if the project includes environmental and sustainability concepts. Dr. Filer answered yes, and that Ms. Esi Langston will participate on this project and all site development projects going forward.

Councilwoman McClellan asked if Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) financing could be used for this project. Dr. Filer stated he would check and report back to Council.

AGENDA

City Planning Updates

Presenter: Mr. George M. Homewood, Director of Planning

Mr. Homewood stated that next week Council will receive a copy of the 2020 City Planning Commission annual report.

He next updated Council as follows:

Planning Item Preview

Zoning Text Amendment Clean Up

- City Planning Commission initiated changes to address necessary clarifications and corrections
 - Ongoing effort, approximately once a year
 - No policy changes proposed

The Zoning Text Amendment Clean Up includes: clarifications, changes based on interpretation and implementation, and corrections.

Planning Item Preview

Short Term Rental Conditional Use Permits

- January CPC Public Hearing:
 - 1 application (single-family home)
- February CPC Public hearing:
 - 2 applications (both 8-unit multifamily structures)
- March CPC Public hearing:
 - 1 application (6-unit multifamily structure)
- April CPC Public Hearing (draft agenda):
 - 8 applications to date

Mr. Homewood stated that these short-term rentals are in the Willoughby/Ocean View areas. He noted we continue to have a lot of short-term rental requests for conditional use permits.

Historic Resources Survey

- Existing inventory does not recognize many resources or themes from the mid-20th century
- Plan to update inventory to capture the additional themes and threats such as:
 - Civil rights and Women's Rights Movements
 - Ethnic Heritage
 - Education
 - Funerary
 - Industry
 - Military/Defense
 - Sea-level Rise and Redevelopment (threats)

- Kicking off online poll to capture public input on potential resources, themes, priorities www.norfolk.gov/surveynfk

Councilwoman McClellan suggested working with Communications and Ms. Crouch to get the information out to our citizens using as many platforms as possible. She also suggested reaching out to our faith-based network. Councilwoman Johnson suggested that appropriate staff reach out to our civic leagues, as well. Councilwoman McClellan added we might consider a paper mail-in flyer for those citizens who do not have access to the internet.

Successful 5-Year Elevation Certificate Review

- The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) conducted a virtual verification visit on August 31, 2020, in which the City requested two class modifications in the Community Rating System (CRS) Program.
- The verification visit required the City to submit elevation certificates for new construction, structures substantially damaged, or substantially improved within the Special Flood hazard Area over the last five years.
- In order to pass the review, 90% of the elevation certificates must be correct. Norfolk received a score of 93%.

Flood Risk Learning Center

- The City of Norfolk has co-developed an outreach tool with Startup in Residence (STiR) Resilience Challenge partner Civis Analytics
- Release at the start of Virginia's Flood Awareness Week: March 14 – 20

Goals of this project:

- Increase flood insurance uptake and other flood mitigation actions
- Improve the city's CRS Rating, lowering premiums for all residents
- Position the City as a leader in flood mitigation efforts

A new web portal for personalized flood risk analysis will be launched on the city's web site during Flood Awareness Week, March 14 - 20. A flood risk report will be generated. The Norfolk Flood Risk Learning Center provides property-specific tips and resources for your home based on the expected depth and frequency of flooding.

Federal and State Briefings

Presenters: Mr. Christopher DeLacy, Partner, Holland & Knight
Ms. Thelma Drake, Intergovernmental Relations Officer

Mr. DeLacy gave an overview as follows:

Congressional Landscape

- Narrowly united government
 - House – 222 (D) – 212 (R) (one outstanding election)
 - Senate – 50 (D) – 50 (R) (Vice-President Harris breaks tie vote)
- Senate Committees to have equal numbers of Democrats and Republicans, so either party will be able to advance legislation to the Floor

Norfolk Congressional Delegation

- Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA) – Committees: Intelligence; Finance; Banking, Housing & Urban Affairs; Budget; Rules
- Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA) – Committees: Armed Services; Budget; Foreign Relations; Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP)
- Rep. Elaine Luria (D-VA-2) – Committees: Armed Services; Veterans' Affairs; Homeland Security
- Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA-3) – Committees: Education and Labor (Chair); Budget

Mr. DeLacy stated that their staff have been meeting with our delegation and their staff to plan for the year ahead.

Biden-Harris First 100 Days

- Priorities
 - Curbing the spread of Covid-19
 - Delivering economic assistance to Americans in need
 - Mitigating climate change
 - Reverse Trump policies on immigration
 - Promote racial equity and social justice
- Policy Avenues
 - Executive actions, in the form of executive orders, presidential memoranda, and directives to Cabinet agencies
 - Legislative Proposals

Key Biden Cabinet Members & Nominees that we work with:

- Rep. Marcia Fudge – Secretary of Housing & Urban Development
- Pete Buttigieg – Secretary of Transportation
- Alejandro Mayorkas – Secretary of Homeland Security
- Gen. Lloyd Austin – Secretary of Defense

Mr. DeLacy stated they typically work through Intergovernmental Affairs at the various agencies, to lay the groundwork for meetings at a higher level for Mayor Alexander, Dr. Filer, etc. These appointments are important gatekeepers with each agency, particularly in the White House.

Key Intergovernmental Government Affairs Appointments

- Julia Chavez Rodriguez – Director of White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs
- Gabe Amo – Deputy Director of White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs
- Sarah Montell – Director of Intergovernmental Affairs at Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- Charles Small – Deputy Assistant Secretary, Intergovernmental Affairs at Department of Transportation (DOT)
- Sly Majid – Deputy Assistant Secretary, Intergovernmental Affairs at Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Congress Passes Budget Resolution

- On Feb. 5, the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate agreed to a FY 2021 budget resolution (S. Con. Res. 5), setting into motion the budget reconciliation process.
- Congressional Democrats will use the reconciliation process to attempt to pass the \$1.9 trillion relief package proposed by President Biden and known as his “American Rescue Plan.”
 - Congressional leadership is aiming to pass the bill before March 14 when unemployment benefits lapse.
- Budget reconciliation is a mechanism by which Congress can use expedited procedures to consider spending revenue, and debt-limit laws.
 - Allows the Senate to enact legislation with a simple majority vote, avoiding the filibuster.
 - The Democratic Majority’s slim 221 to 211 margins in the House, and 50-50 split in the Senate, will require the caucus to maintain unity to pass a final bill through its chambers.

State of Play:

Budget Reconciliation in the 117th Congress

- On February 26, the House passed the sweeping \$1.9 trillion “American Rescue Plan Act of 2021” (H.R. 1319) in a party-line vote with two Democrats joining all Republicans against it.
 - Combined legislation from nine House committees.
 - Includes numerous local government priorities (e.g., national vaccination program, increased food assistance, emergency funding for childcare, small businesses, unemployment benefits, rental assistance, and public transit).
- The Senate now take up the House-passed bill, where Democrats are expected to amend it and send it back to the House for approval before unemployment insurance benefits expire on March 14.

Each of the committees play a key role both in the precise dollar amounts that are provided and then also the programs that are funded.

| Committee | Amount |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Ways and Means | \$941 billion |
| Education and Labor | \$357.9 billion |
| Oversight and Reform | \$350.7 billion |
| Energy and Commerce | \$188.5 billion |
| Transportation and Infrastructure | \$95.6 billion |
| Financial Services | \$75 billion |
| Small Business | \$50 billion |
| Veterans Affairs | \$16.6 billion |
| Agriculture | \$16.1 billion |

- House Oversight and Reform Committee's \$350.7 billion measure includes direct funding for state/local governments. The previous COVID-19 bill did not contain state and local funding. It will be included now and though the numbers are not final, they understand that approximately \$100 million will be provided to the city through this Bill.
- House Financial Services Committee deals with items like homeowner assistance and rental assistance. This is a key part of the Bill.
- House Ways and means Committee, which is the tax writing committee, deals with the \$1,400 direct payments as well as unemployment insurance. The current unemployment insurance expires on March 14th.
- House Education and Labor Committee is led by Chairman Rep. Bobby Scott. This deals with all issues related to schools. Some important school-related programs are going to be funded through this bill including Head Start and some food assistance.
- House Agriculture Committee is the other part of the food equation and they fund the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
- House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. There will be an infrastructure title to this bill as well as a stand-alone infrastructure bill once the COVID-19 stimulus bill is complete. Mr. DeLacy stated they believe there will be an infrastructure Bill. Work on this Bill has already started and will begin in earnest as soon as the Covid-19 stimulus process is complete. An overall dollar amount is unavailable, but it is expected to be another very large Bill that will fund bridges, roads, tunnels, Army Corps of Engineers' projects, school infrastructure, etc.

Coronavirus Relief to Date

- On March 27, 2020, President Trump signed into law the \$2 trillion Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which created a \$150 billion Coronavirus Relief fund.

- CRF provides direct assistance to states and localities to use for expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency.
- Lawmakers proposed additional direct and flexible relief to state and local governments in various coronavirus relief proposals, however bipartisan negotiations faltered.
- Congress passed a \$2.4 trillion legislative package (H.R. 133) on December 21, 2020 which includes:
 - FY 2021 Appropriations
 - \$900 billion for Covid-19 Relief
 - Does not include additional funding for state and local governments.
 - Extends the expiration of funds provided under the CARES Act for the CRF through December 31, 2021

FY 2022 Appropriations

- Appropriations process underway
 - Official deadline: September 30, 2021 (end of fiscal year)
- President Biden's budget request delayed this year
 - Expected mid to late March.
- Earmarks return in 117th Congress
 - House and Senate Appropriations Chairs – Re-. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) and Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT) – will reinstate for FY 2022
 - Congressional provisions directing funds to be spent on specific community project (funding limited)
 - Eligibility limited to state and local governments and non-profits

Norfolk Federal Successes

- Secured \$14.4 million Department of Transportation (DOT) Better utilizing Infrastructure to leverage Development (BUILD) Grant.
 - Funding to upgrade and reconstruct city streets in St. Paul's Area.
- Project extension for funding awarded via the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) National Disaster Resilience Competition (NRDC).
 - Covid-19 prevented Ohio Creek project and NDRC projects across the country from remaining on schedule.
 - Coronavirus relief legislation passed in 2020 extends the deadline for completion from Sept. 30, 2022 to 2023.

Norfolk Coastal Storm Risk Management

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) flood control project received congressional authorization in 2020 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)
- \$2.46 million included in USACE FY 2021 work plan
 - Funding to complete preliminary engineering and design phase (PED).

- Upcoming initiatives & opportunities:
 - \$420 million Lafayette flood gate and surge barrier – resilience project for funding via infrastructure bill
 - \$80 million in Construction New Start funds in the FY 2022 USACE work plan

Pending Grant Opportunities

- The City submitted an application to the Federal emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program
 - Funding to acquire new, modern heavy rescue vehicle (\$1.1 million)
- Potential Application: DOT FY 2021 Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Grant Program
 - \$889 million in total funding for freight and goods movement projects
 - Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) opened on Feb. 17, 2021; Applications due March 19, 2021
- Potential Application: DOT FY 2021 BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant Program
 - \$1 billion in funding for infrastructure projects with significant local or regional impact
 - NOFO not open
- Potential Application: EPA FY 2021 Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA)
 - Federal credit program administered by EPA for eligible water and wastewater infrastructure projects (\$6 billion in funding for FY2020)
 - NOFO not open

Ms. Drake gave a summary of the Virginia General Assembly session as follows:

Key Issues

- SB1128 (Spruill) Norfolk Charter Bill has passed both bodies and is headed to the Governor's office for his signature. The Bill deletes archaic and unused language and adds our City Council Clerk has having authority to swear in appointees to various City Boards and Commissions.

Marijuana Bill SB1406 (Ebbin) HB 2312 (Herring)

- Legalizes up to 1 oz for adults 21+ and authorizes legal sales beginning January 1, 2024.
- Establishes the authority to create the new Cannabis Control Authority and a new public health advisory council July 1, 2021. Work will begin to create the framework to legalize, license and regulate this new industry.
- Requires a reenactment in the 2022 General Assembly for how the commercial marketplace will be constructed and oversee the criminal justice changes.
- Nothing in the Bill creates new crimes. The \$25 penalty, civil offense for up to 1 oz for adults is maintained.
- The Bill anticipates up to 400 licenses being available with a portion reserved for businesses that meet criteria for a social justice category of licensing, expungement, local government control of land use and permitting and an opt out by local governments with a referendum requirement.

Components, but all are subject to change as the work continues on this Bill.

- Localities will retain the local sales tax revenue and an optional 3% local tax. There are no restrictions on how this tax revenue can be used.
- State tax revenue is 21% plus retail taxes for a total of 30%.
- State Revenue will be used – 40% for at-risk- pre-K, 30% for the Cannabis Equity Reinvestment Fund, 25% for substance abuse disorder treatment and 5% for local public health funding.

Marijuana remains illegal at the federal level.

Important Bills

Economy

- HB 2204 (Filer-Corn) – GGG – Get a Skill, Get a Job, Give Back. Governor’s program to create a fund to help certain low-income/middle-income students to be enrolled in educational programs to prepare for an occupation in a high-demand field.
- Both bodies have included \$250,000 funding in their budget bills for enterprise zones.
- The budget provides \$10 million for loans, grants or forgivable loans to small business or community revitalization real estate projects. Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI).

Environmental

- HB 2187 (Hodges) directs the Commonwealth Center for Recurrent Flooding to develop a program to evaluate and manage both water quality and flooding.
- SB 1309 (Ebbin) authorizes grants from the Stormwater Management Fund for flood mitigation and protection measures.
- SB 1404 (Lewis) authorizes grants from the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund to localities with high or above average fiscal stress.
- Created the Flood Board, flooding disclosure requirement and requires VDOT to provide annual reports on the status of Coastal Transportation Infrastructure (did not pass this session).

Strong and Safe Communities

- SB 1197 (Locke) establishes a Virginia Opportunity Tax Credit in 2021 to a low income building eligible for the state credit. Carried up to 5 years.
- HB 1969 (Carr) Allows a separate class for blighted/derelict property, assess at a higher rate, and expedite the sale.
- SB 1302 (McPike) creates a Crisis Call Center Line, 9-8-8 to participate in the national Suicide Prevention Lifeline.
- HB 2017 (Mullin) authorizes any jurisdiction to establish a juvenile diversion program.
- HB 2326 (Graves) authorizes localities to regulate child-care facilities.

Transportation

- SB 1126 (Spruill) adds a member of the House and one from the Senate to the HRT board and sets qualifications for Governor appointees.
- HB 2071 (Convirs-Fowler) requires that the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) determine if a project has been designed to be resilient and to consider resiliency when

preparing the Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP). Bill does not add resiliency to smart scale.

- Both the crosswalk Bill that required a zebra design and the bicycle bill that allowed a bicycle to yield at a stop sign and to ride 2 abreast failed.
- HB 1903 (Carr) allows localities to reduce speed to 15 mph in residential and business areas.
- The budget provides \$93 million for the I-64 corridor – the gap and the Hot Lanes and \$10 million for multi-use trails.

Education

- The budget includes up to 5% teacher pay raises, but the locality must provide a 2% match to qualify, holds the average daily membership (ADM) harmless, provides funding for additional support staff and contributes \$61 million to the teacher retirement plan reducing local contributions.
- Several bills were passed regarding Child Services Act (CSA) funding as a result of the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) study such as allowing public schools to pay for 12 months of services when transitioning and created a workgroup.
- SB 1225 (Boysko) authorizes school boards to partner with private broadband providers to expand and operate broadband for educational purposes.
- SB 1303 (Dunnavant) requires virtual and in-person learning be available to all students July 15th.
- Total K-12 funding: FY 21: \$212,068,874 and FY 22: \$219,457,169

Other Issues

- The Trap/Neuter/Return Bill was defeated in the House.
- Qualified Immunity bills have been sent to be studied – the Senate Bill to a newly created committee from the Judiciary Committee and the House Bill to the Crime Commission.
- Gray Machines will not be legal in Virginia after July 1, 2021. The Bill to extend them one year failed. (provided \$76 million revenues)
- Governor Northam announced \$525 million in Emergency Rental Assistance funding. VA was the first state to set up such a program. So far 24,300+ have received assistance. Moratorium ends 3/31/21. The Utility Moratorium remains in effect but can now be used more than once.
- Removes the presumption of bail requirement for certain crimes.
- FOIA changes protect members personal contact info, allows care of a family member as a reason to join virtually and allows either 2 meetings or 25% whichever is greater to be virtual.

Budget

- Total General Fund (GF) Budget is \$47.59 billion
- Reforecast numbers announced Feb. 8th show the Commonwealth has \$730 million more than was expected. Virginia is projected to continue doing well but is planning for reserves.
- Total appropriation to cash reserves is \$900 million.

- \$10 million for a workgroup at Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to study accessory buildings on single-family lots.
- No additional 599 funding was provided.

Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Update

Presenters: Mr. John Rhamstine, Director, Cultural Facilities, Arts and Entertainment

Mr. Ted Baroody, Chief Executive Officer, Festevents

Mr. Rhamstine reported as follows:

MEAC Basketball Tournament Update

Tournament Information

- March 11 – 13 at Norfolk Scope
- 11 MEAC Schools
- Men's and Women's tournaments
- Games streamed on FloSports
- Finals televised on ESPN2
- 250 ticketed patrons for each session
- No bands or cheerleaders
- Virtual College Fair – March 10

COVID Safety Protocols

- Masks mandatory for patrons, staff
- Players, coaches, court staff tested daily
- Venue staff restricted to offices, concourses, and seating
- Frequent cleaning of all high-touch areas
- Locker rooms fully disinfected between games

Mr. Baroody reported on the Basketball Championship Watch party at Town Point Park as follows:

Basketball Championship Watch party

Saturday, March 13th, 2021

250 Attendance, Gated Event w/Admission

Town Point Park – With Social Circles

- Gated event would take place within "Festival Field"
- 10-foot circles painted on turf, 10 feet apart
- 4 Guests per circle (250 attendance = approximately 100 circles needed)
- Masks must be worn at all times, other than eating & drinking
- Low/No-touch event...No cash, touchless food pick-up, etc.
- Messaging/communication and signage is key to the success

- Staff on-site, PA announcements, signage throughout

Mr. Baroody presented aerial photographs of the circle and technical drawings showing the full layout and design. Appropriate social distancing, safety measures, cleaning, and sanitation will be observed.

Vaccination Data Update

Presenter: Mr. Jim Redick, Director of Emergency Preparedness and Response

Mr. Redick provided an update as follows:

Previous Week's Highlights

- Advisory Board – first meeting took place last week and they will continue to meet weekly.
- Norfolk Call Center: Answered 7,181 incoming calls, answered 2,310 voicemails
- “Hands-on” assistance: 1,081 individuals assisted
- Norfolk Public Health: administered 4,106 doses/5 clinics
 - Walmart: administered 1,267 doses
 - Sentara: administered 687 + 5,000 doses
 - Rite-Aid: administered 168 doses

The expansion of the Macy's site is complete, and when more vaccine doses become available, an output of 3,000 per day will be possible. Additionally, we have been able to assist, assess, and establish flow plans for five more potential vaccination clinic sites.

Council concerns:

- Testing: Testing is occurring in the Commonwealth, and possibly we will see more testing in our region. As pertains to K-12 specifically, there are two types of testing. If symptoms are displayed, they are referred to their primary care physicians to get tested or a test site in the area, and sites are listed on city web site. The screening of asymptomatic students and staff is currently being discussed, but there are no plans for it at present.
- Are CVS and Walgreens using PrepMod: No, but they are operating their own appointment scheduling tools.
- Equitable Distribution: Discussed solutions and resources and are optimistic there will be more vaccine doses by mid-March.
- Transportation Dependency: Identified “Hot Spots.” Vaccine doses will be taken to facilities located in these “Hot Spot” areas. Identify neighborhood retail pharmacies within proximity to these areas. Work with our faith partners, Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia, and HRT to arrange transportation.

This Week's Objectives

- Continue Supporting Vaccine Output
 - State/Federal Assistance
 - Consider neighborhood-level opportunities
- Finalize Transportation Assistance Strategy
- Messaging
- Continuity of Government

City Posture

- City Hall – no change. Appointment-only will continue.
- Norfolk Public Library – no change. Grab and go service will continue.
- Virginia Zoo – Occupancy increases to 30% outdoor about-1,000 visitors per day. Educational programs increase from 10 to 25.
- Seven Venues – No change to indoor occupancy (250). Harbor Park increases occupancy to 1,000.
- Juvenile Detention – Norfolk Educational Transition (NET) Academy staff will return to Norfolk Juvenile Detention Center and resume classes in their classrooms. All teachers will be back by March 15.
- Nauticus – Will begin overnight camps/stays on battleship in May.

Councilwoman McClellan clarified that essential workers in Norfolk, regardless of what city they live in, should register in Norfolk. She asked that information be posted to the city's web site.

Councilman Smigiel asked, how many vaccines is Norfolk getting per week?

Councilwoman McClellan asked if the following data can be posted to the city's dashboard: total number of pre-registrations for 1A and 1B, and how many citizens in each phase have received their first vaccine dose and how many have received their second vaccine dose.

Council Interests

Norfolk City Council

Councilman Riddick:

- Prior to meeting with the Norfolk School Board, he asked for updates on plans for Booker T. Washington High School and how they are addressing low achievers during this pandemic.
- Reiterated an earlier request to provide parking spaces and bike lanes on Church Street.
- Asked if furloughed employees will be rehired
- Asked for an update on what is being done with the Globe Iron, Merrimac Market, and Hershey Bar properties.
- Asked that African American architects are included in the Nordstrom renovation proposals.
- Asked if the relocation of the Workforce Center to Monticello Avenue provides adequate space to accomplish their goals.

Councilman Smigiel:

- Asked for a priority listing of school buildings that need to be replaced prior to the joint meeting with the Norfolk School Board.
- Highlighted a recent article regarding clean-up efforts by the Environmental Commission and stressed the importance of keeping our gateways clean.
- Asked the Administration for an update on plans to fully re-open city government.

Councilwoman Johnson:

- Gave an update on projects in Ward 3.
 - Booker T. Washington High School. She stated that the school is a part of the Broad Creek refresh and there have been meetings for over a year to consider a master plan and it is nearing completion.
 - Merrimac Market. The land is also part of the Broad Creek refresh and RFPs will be issued.
 - Globe Iron. There have been meetings for more than a year and the master plan is almost complete.
- Asked if there are plans to rehire furloughed employees in three priority areas: Recreation, Parks and Open Space, Libraries, and Neighborhood Development.
- Asked for a listing of empty school buildings and if there are plans to utilize any buildings prior to meeting with joint Norfolk School Board meeting.
- Commented that if any Council member has questions or issues regarding Ward 3 to give her a call and she will update them.

Councilwoman McClellan:

- Asked the Administration to ensure that the casino land agreement contains the Army Corps of Engineers' ability to construct a flood gate or flood wall.
- Reported that the Social Equity and Economic Opportunity Commission and its subcommittees had a series of meetings in February.

Councilwoman Doyle:

- Echoed Councilman Smigiel's concerns about citywide littering and it increasing during the pandemic.
- Echoed Councilwoman Johnson that Council needs a listing of unused and under-utilized school buildings that can be returned to the city for economic development opportunities.

Councilwoman Royster:

- Asked what assistance is being provided to our homeless citizens, and are we looking for permanent housing solutions.
- Thanked city staff and commission members for supporting the Equity and Economic Opportunity Commission. She stated that the focus is on moving forward and investing in our communities to increase and strengthen connections through an emphasis on programs and policies that will enforce diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Mayor Alexander echoed Council members' concerns. He added that as we consider reopening city government that emphasis be placed on ensuring safety to our workforce and citizens. In addition, he asked that we start planning for our youth during the summer months who will need safe activities and instruction in our rec centers and libraries, etc.